CLAIMS

That which is claimed is:

- 1. A glycosaminoglycan structure, comprising:
 - a core of free glycosaminoglycan;
- 5 a layer of crosslinked glycosaminoglycan surrounding said core; and
 - a layer of a charged molecule surrounding said crosslinked glycosaminoglycan;
- wherein the structure is stable both *in vitro* and *in vivo*, and wherein the structure effectively binds to cells.
 - 2. The glycosaminoglycan structure of claim 1, wherein the structure comprises a single glycosaminoglycan.
- The glycosaminoglycan structure of claim 1, wherein the structure comprises at least two different glycosaminoglycans.
 - 4. The glycosaminoglycan structure of claim 1, wherein the structure comprises hyaluronan.
- 5. The glycosaminoglycan structure of claim 1, wherein the charged molecule is a positively charged polyamino acid.
 - 6. The glycosaminoglycan structure of claim 5, wherein the charged molecule is polylysine.
 - 7. The glycosaminoglycan structure of claim 1, wherein the structure is a strand of about 0.5 to about 5 cm in length.

- 8. The glycosaminoglycan structure of claim 1, wherein the structure is spherical.
- 9. A composition for introducing a glycosaminoglycan to a subject, said composition comprising:

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a glycosaminoglycan structure, wherein said glycosaminoglycan structure comprises a core of free glycosaminoglycan, a layer of crosslinked glycosaminoglycan surrounding said core; and a charged molecule surrounding said crosslinked glycosaminoglycan layer; and

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an excipient.

- 10. The composition of claim 9, wherein the composition further comprises compounds that promote wound healing.
- 15 11. The composition of claim 9, wherein the composition further comprises cells adhered to said glycosaminoglycan structure, wherein said cells are characterized by an ability to enhance wound healing.
 - 12. The composition of claim 11, wherein the cells are from the subject to be treated.
- 20 13. A method of promoting wound healing in a subject, said method comprising administering to said subject a composition comprising:

a glycosaminoglycan structure, wherein said glycosaminoglycan structure comprises a core of free glycosaminoglycan, a layer of crosslinked glycosaminoglycan surrounding said core;

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a charged molecule surrounding said crosslinked glycosaminoglycan layer; and

an excipient.

14. A method for treating a glycosaminoglycan-mediated condition in a subject, said method comprising:

5 administering to said subject a composition comprising:

a glycosaminoglycan structure, wherein said glycosaminoglycan structure comprises a core of free glycosaminoglycan, a layer of crosslinked glycosaminoglycan surrounding said core;

a charged molecule surrounding said crosslinked glycosaminoglycan layer; and

an excipient.

15. A method for producing a composition for introducing a glycosaminoglycan to a subject, comprising the steps of:

exposing a glycosaminoglycan substrate to a liquid comprising a crosslinking agent, wherein the crosslinkingagent is present in the liquid in a concentration of between 35% and 85%;

incubating the glycosaminoglycan solution with the liquid for a time sufficient to allow crosslinking of the glycosaminoglycans at the periphery of the substrate to create a glycosamino-glycan structure; and

exposing the glycosaminoglycan structure to a charged molecule to form a coating of the charged molecule surrounding the glycosaminoglycan structure;

wherein the composition is characterized by *in vivo* structural stability and an ability to adhere to cells *in vivo*.

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- 16. The method of claim 15, wherein the crosslinking agent is present in the liquid in a concentration of between about 45% and about 75%.
- 17. The method of claim 15, wherein the crosslinking agent is selected from the group consisting of formaldehyde, vinyl sulphone, biscarbodiimides, and carbodiimides.
 - 18. The method of claim 15, wherein the crosslinking agent is glutaraldehyde.
- 10 19. The method of claim 15, wherein the method further comprises the step of removing excess crosslinking agent from the glycosaminoglycan structure.
- 20. The method *of* claim 15, further comprising the step *of* preparing a glycosaminoglycan substrate.
 - 21. The method of claim 15, wherein the glycosaminoglycan is selected from the group consisting of hyaluronan, chondroitin sulfates, laminin, keratin sulfate, chitin and heparin.
- 22. The method *of* claim 15, further comprising the step *of* fonning the glycosaminoglycan substrate.
 - 23. A composition prepared according to the method of claim 15.